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DARK REIGN
FANTASTIC
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FANTASTIC 4

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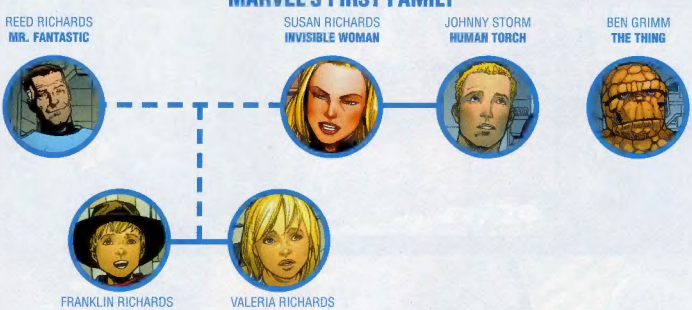
The aftermath of the Secret Invasion has prompted Reed to take a long, hard look at the actions of our super heroes…and to do so has built a machine, a reality-bending super-computer called The Bridge.

But just as he turns it on, agents from H.A.M.M.E.R. arrive and interface with the building's power supply – as well as Franklin and Valeria Richards. The resulting power fluctuation sends Sue, Johnny and Ben spinning through realities, taking the places of their counterparts in other dimensions. When they finally land back in our time and place, there's an even bigger problem to deal with… and his name is Norman Osborn.

Osborn has formally served the Richards family with papers demanding to see their license to operate as super heroes. In the absence of any adults, the kids were left to fight for the rights to the Baxter Building…but now, the Fantastic Four have returned to confront the gun-wielding Norman...

MARVEL'S FIRST FAMILY



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THE BAXTER BUILDING:
I SAID... GET AWAY FROM THE CHILDREN, OSBORN.

MAKE ME.
FANTASTIC FOUR
THE BRIDGE
CHAPTER FIVE

WITH PLEASURE.

WHOOF!

YOU'RE GOING TO REGRET THAT.
THINK OF THIS AS A DOG WHISTLE...

"HERE COMES THE WILD HUNT."

SUE, CLOSE OFF THE ROOM.
DONE.
OOOF!
HHHRRRR-UUGH!
THHUMP!

WELL?
ME TRAPPED IN HERE WITH YOU. I'LL ADMIT, YOU HAVE ME AT SOMETHING OF A DISADVANTAGE...
YOU MEN WAIT OUTSIDE.
DR. RICHARDS WON'T BE RELEASING ME UNLESS IT'S SAFE FOR HIM TO DO SO.
RIGHT?

OH, WE'RE GOING TO AGREE TO MORE THAN THAT.
I WANT YOU TO STAY OUT OF MY HOME.
FOR GOOD.
FINE, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT I SAY NOW. YOU WON'T ACTUALLY BELIEVE ME--NOR SHOULD YOU... WE BOTH KNOW THE TRUTH.
THIS ISN'T CLOSE TO BEING FINISHED.
NO. NO IT ISN'T.
BUT YOU'RE LEAVING.
YES.
BUT IT MUST STING, KNOWING THE REALITY OF YOUR SITUATION.
KNOWING THAT, IN THE END, I'LL WIN.
I'M THE GOVERNMENT NOW, RICHARDS...
REED!
AND THAT MAKES ME THE FINAL AUTHORITY.
WHA--
BLAM

WHAT?
OH NO.
MISTER, I'M THE LAW 'ROUND THESE PARTS.

FRANKLIN, I DON'T CARE IF YOU THOUGHT IT WAS RIGHT OR NOT, YOU DON'T HURT OTHER PEOPLE.
OKAY, MOM... SORRY.
HERE YOU GO, KID...
I'LL TAKE THAT.
I'M NOT SURE THAT SORRY IS GOING TO CUT IT FOR EITHER OF YOU...
UHH.
SHOT ME... YOUR SON SHOT ME, RICHARDS.
I'M GOING TO--
YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING.
I WON'T LET YOU.
YOU WON'T LET? YOU WON'T LET?
I'LL COME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.
I'LL COME AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP ME!
I WILL.
NOW LEAVE. THIS IS THE LAST CHANCE YOU GET TO DO IT UNDER YOUR OWN POWER.
...LET'S SEE WHAT YOUR FATHER HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT.
I DON'T GET IT. IT'S JUST A TOY GUN.

ARE YOU OKAY?
YES.
UH-HUH.
WELL, LET'S HEAR IT.
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN FRANKLIN, DAD.
NO, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN VAL. SHE TOTALLY SCARED OFF THOSE H.A.M.M.E.R. GUYS.
SHE DID IT WITH A PHONE.
AND FRANKLIN TOTALLY FACED DOWN THAT GUY WITH THE BAD HAIR.
I WAS SPIDER-MAN.
HE FREAKED HUM OUT. IT WAS GREAT.
AND WE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT.
I STAYED UP ALL NIGHT. FRANKLIN FELL ASLEEP.
DID NOT.
WELL, I'M GLAD YOU'RE BOTH OKAY, BUT LATER WE'RE GOING TO TALK MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED...
ESPECIALLY YOU AND I, FRANKLIN.
OK, DAD.
SO, REED, DID YOU FIND OUT WHAT YOU NEEDED TO?
IT'S HARD TO SAY RIGHT NOW, BUT, YES, I THINK I DID.
WELL, STRETCH, I'M GLAD, BUT I GOTTA TELL YA, WE BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER.

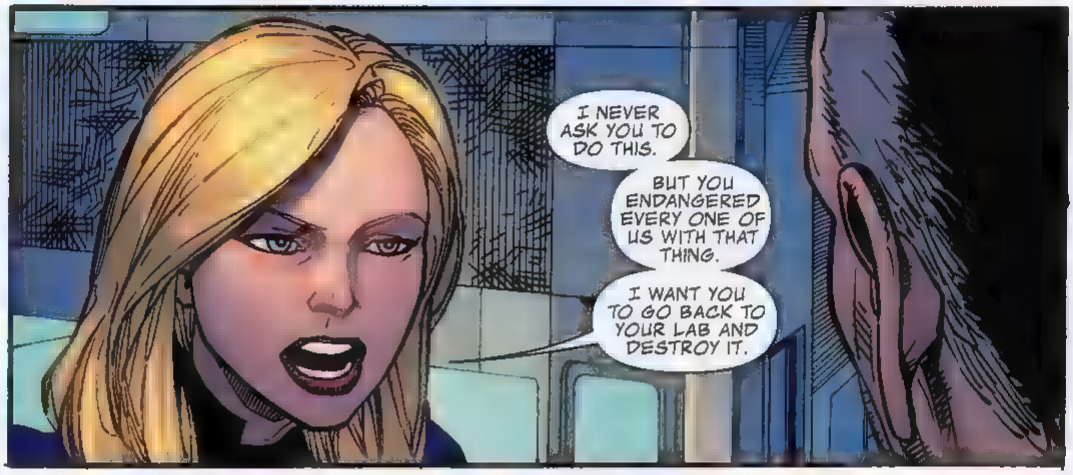
YES, WE HAVE.
DO YOU WANT TO TELL US WHAT HAPPENED WITH YOU?
IT WORKED.
I WAS ABLE TO SEE... EVERYTHING.
I THINK I MIGHT KNOW HOW TO FIX THINGS. FIX THEM FOR GOOD.
I DON'T CARE WHAT YOUR MOM AND DAD SAY... GREAT JOB, GUYS!
WHO WANTS TO SEE THEIR NEW ROOMS?
ARE YOU SURE EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT? DID SOMETHING ELSE HAPPEN?
WHAT?

"DID SOMETHING ELSE HAPPEN?"
COMPUTER, BEGIN POWERING DOWN THE BRIDGE.
SWITCHING OFF THE VISUALIZER.
WAIT.
WAIT.

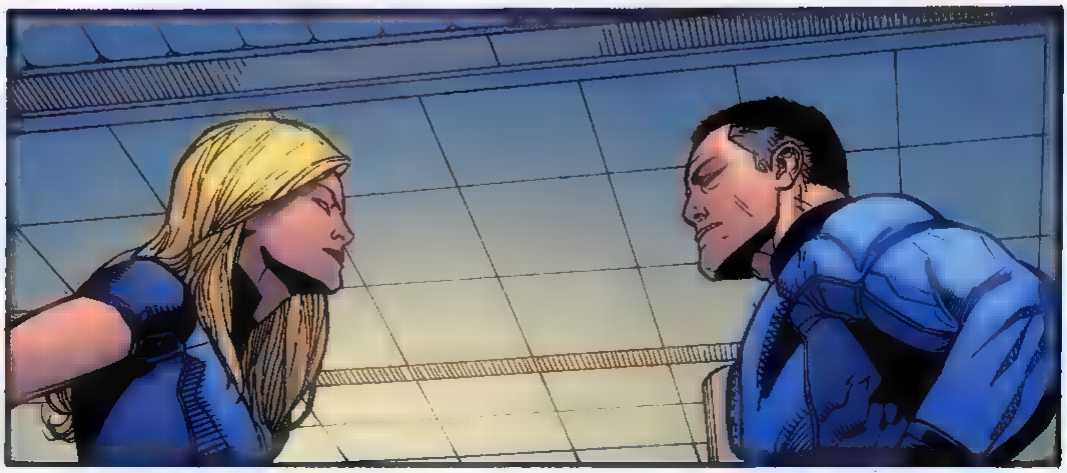
COMPUTER, ONE FINAL PROJECTION BEFORE WE SHUT DOWN.
ELIMINATING ALL PREVIOUS PARAMETERS, HOW MANY OTHER INSTANCES HAVE THERE BEEN REQUIRING SIMILAR TECHNOLOGY TO YOUR OWN...
HOW MANY OTHER BRIDGES HAVE BEEN BUILT?
PROCESSING...
PROCESSING...
PROCESSING...
ONE HUNDRED, FORTY-ONE.
OH!

WELL, DID SOMETHING ELSE HAPPEN?
NO.
NOTHING.
THEN I WANT YOU TO DESTROY IT.

WHAT?

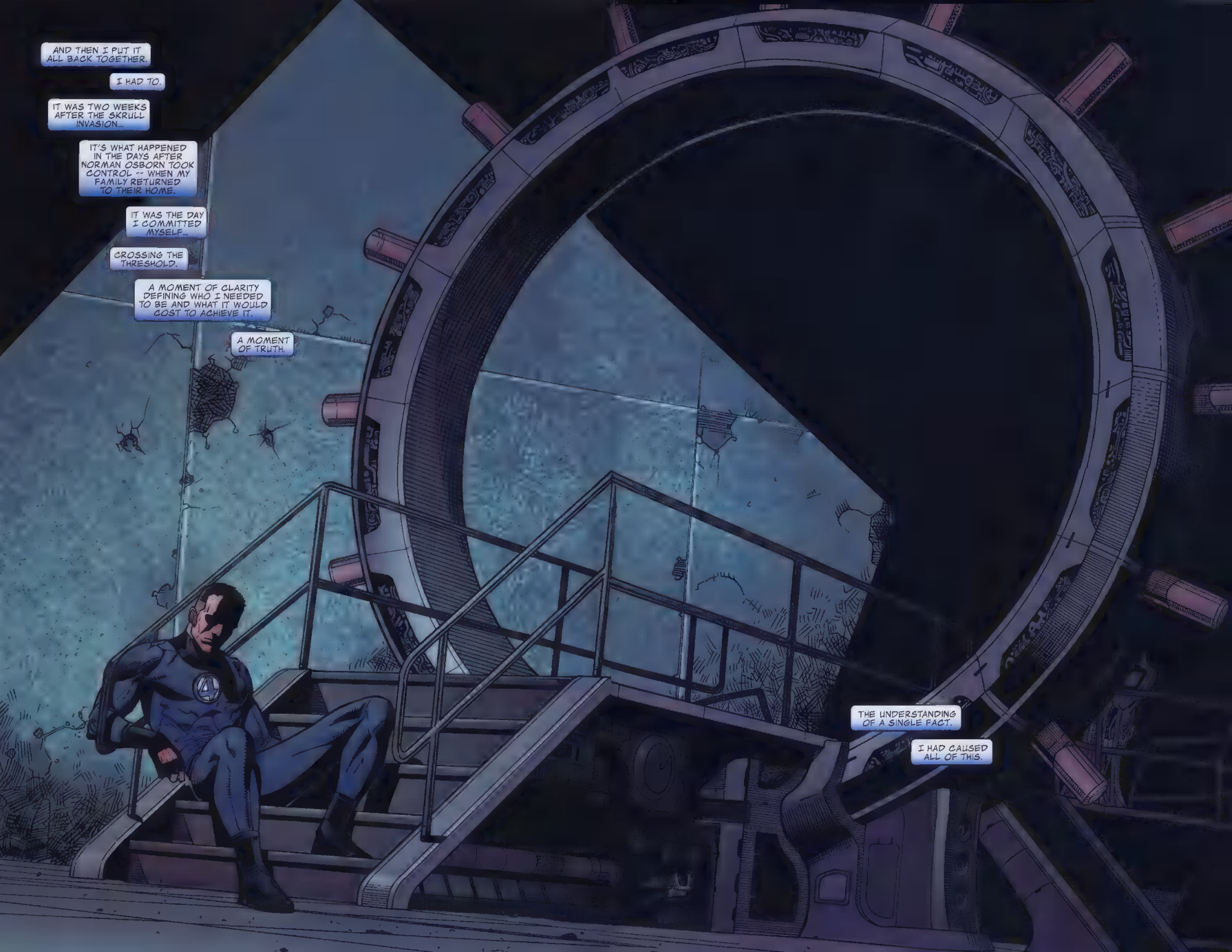

I NEVER ASK YOU TO DO THIS.
BUT YOU ENDANGERED EVERY ONE OF US WITH THAT THING.
I WANT YOU TO GO BACK TO YOUR LAB AND DESTROY IT.

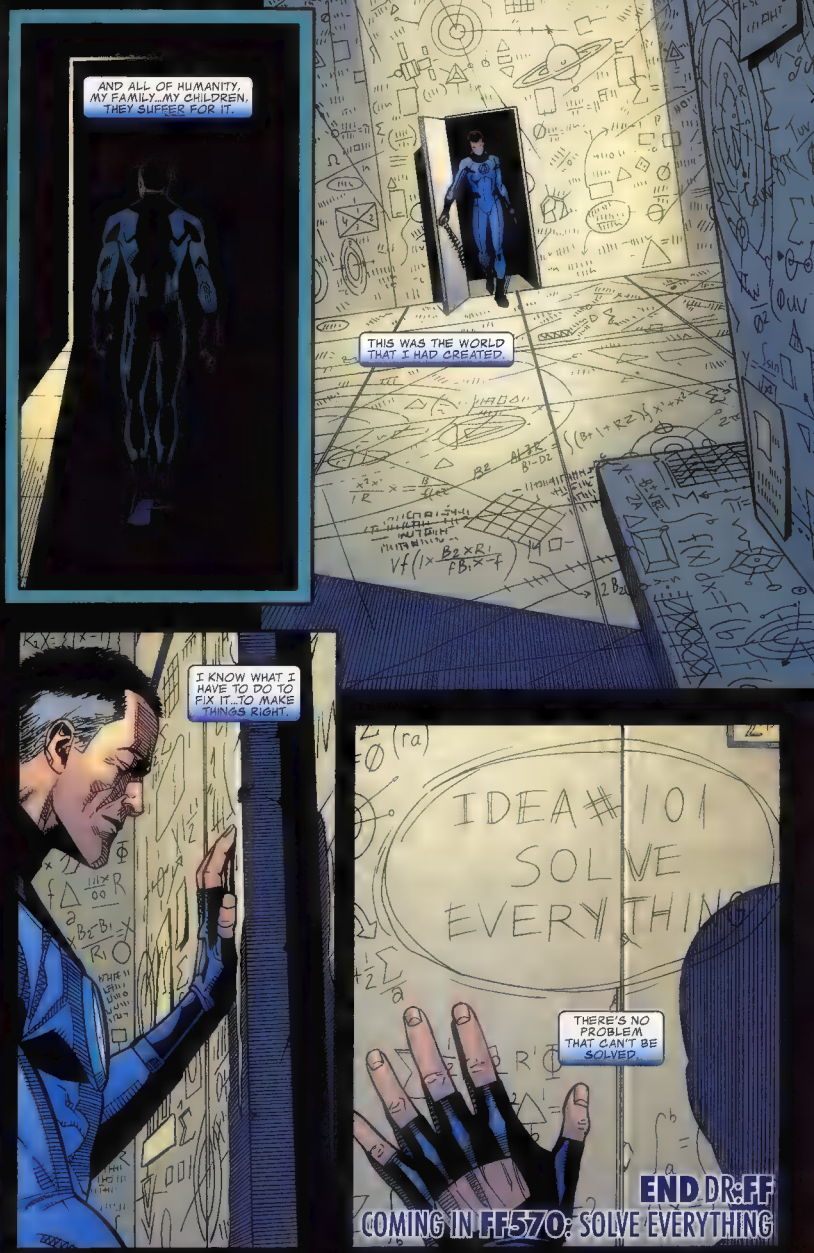
SUE, I...
PROMISE ME.
I...
PROMISE ME.



"I'LL TAKE IT APART PIECE BY PIECE."
I PROMISE.
LET ME GUESS.
YOU WANT TO FIX THINGS.
WE CAN HELP WITH THAT.
WHO ARE YOU?

WE'RE JUST LIKE YOU, REED.
AND WE'LL BE HERE WAITING WHEN YOU'RE READY.
BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG...
THERE'S NO TELLING HOW MUCH WORSE THINGS COULD GET.
I TOLD HER I'D TAKE IT APART PIECE BY PIECE, SO I DID...
POWERING OFF.
KLIK!


AND THEN I PUT IT ALL BACK TOGETHER.
I HAD TO.
IT WAS TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SKRULL INVASION...
IT'S WHAT HAPPENED IN THE DAYS AFTER NORMAN OSBORN TOOK CONTROL -- WHEN MY FAMILY RETURNED TO THEIR HOME.
IT WAS THE DAY I COMMITTED MYSELF...
CROSSING THE THRESHOLD.
A MOMENT OF CLARITY DEFINING WHO I NEEDED TO BE AND WHAT IT WOULD COST TO ACHIEVE IT.
A MOMENT OF TRUTH.
THE UNDERSTANDING OF A SINGLE FACT.
I HAD CAUSED ALL OF THIS.


AND ALL OF HUMANITY, MY FAMILY...MY CHILDREN. THEY SUFFER FOR IT.
THIS WAS THE WORLD THAT I HAD CREATED.
I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO TO FIX IT...TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
IDEA #101 SOLVE EVERYTHING
THERE'S NO PROBLEM THAT CAN'T BE SOLVED.
END DR:FF
COMING IN FF570: SOLVE EVERYTHING

FANTASTIC FOUR
ISSUE #570 PREVIEW
JONATHAN HICKMAN • DALE EAGLESHAM

THEN.
UMMM...
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'LL CATCH YOU.
UMMM...
I DON'T THINK...
I'M RIGHT HERE.
I DON'T THINK I WANT TO.
LET'S DO SOMETHING ELSE, OKAY?
LOOK AT ME, SON.

IT'S OKAY TO BE AFRAID.
IT'S OKAY TO FAIL.
BUT TO SAY THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN WILLING TO TRY...
...THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE, REED.
OKAY... I'LL...DO MY BEST.
ARE YOU READY?
I'M READY.
GOOD.
NOW JUMP.

NOW.
CRASH!!

I AM AN INSTRUMENT OF FATE.
LOOK OUT, SUE!
OOFFF!
I HAVE BEEN CREATED FOR A SINGLE PURPOSE.
REED!
WE'RE IN TROUBLE HERE. JOHNNY'S OUT AND I'M DOING EVERYTHING I CAN TO HOLD THINGS TOGETHER.
MAYBE NOW'S THE TIME FOR SOME DEDUCTIVE REASONING?
I AM RIGHTEOUS VENGEANCE IN ROBOTIC FORM.
ON IT, DEAR.
URPPH!
IT'S ACTUALLY FASCINATING.
EACH OF THESE MACHINES APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MANUFACTURED SPECIFICALLY TO DEFEAT A SINGLE MEMBER OF OUR SUPER HERO FAMILY.
I CANNOT FAIL.
SMASH!
THEN WE BETTER SWITCH THINGS UP!

HRR/M.
THERE WAS A HOLE IN MY LOGIC.
HEY, THERE'S A GUY INSIDE.
HE AIN'T GOT NO CLOTHES ON.
IT'S BENTLEY WITTMAN-- THE WIZARD, BEN. I'D RECOGNIZE THAT HEAD ANYWHERE.
JOHNNY!
CHECK THE OTHER MACHINES!
WILL DO.
YEP. ALL THREE-- ALIVE AND KICKIN'
WELL THEN...
BE CAREFUL, THERE ARE PEOPLE INVOLVED.
CHOOM
LET'S SHOW A LITTLE COMPASSION AND RESTRAINT FOR OUR FELLOW MAN.
URR/MPH!

"WHAT IS THE TRUE COST OF A MAN'S MISTAKES?"
FANTASTIC FOUR
TO BE CONTINUED IN FANTASTIC FOUR #570
ON SALE AUGUST 26TH!